

REMARKS

Reconsideration of the application in view of the following remarks is respectfully requested.

The Examiner rejects Claims 2, 3, 5, 6, 18, 20 and 23-27 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Hoen in view of Wingo and Huibers, et al. The Examiner states that Hoen discloses an optical path-to-sight link but does not disclose a transmitter with a light source and micromirrors, a remote receiver with a photodetector, and a control loop coupling control of the micromirror and receiver by a circuit. The Examiner states that Wingo teaches the light source and photodetector as transmitter and receiver. The Examiner states that Huibers, et al. teaches a transmitter with a light source and micromirrors and specifically refers to Figure 18, a receiver with a photodetector and a control loop. The Examiner states that it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made, to have the transmitter and receiver, as labeled by Wingo with the control loop of Huibers, et al. with devices of Hoen, since one would be motivated to make fine adjustments to the mirror so as to steer the beam in the proper direction as shown in Huibers, et al. The Examiner rejects Claims 19, 22 and 28 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Hoen in view of Wingo and Huibers, et al. as applied above and further view of Abeles, et al. The Examiner states that Abeles, et al. teaches modulation and demodulation. The Examiner rejects Claims 21 and 29 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Hoen in view of Wingo and Huibers, et al. as applied above and further in view of Duguay. The Examiner states that Duguay teaches a VCSEL laser diode. In the Examiner's response to arguments, the Examiner states that with regards to Hoen, the path is not always the same and thus there is a reason to have a system which determines the light has impinged on a photodetector. The Examiner states that regard to Wingo, the fiber optic communication can be viewed as a path-to-sight link.

With regard to Huibers, et al., Applicants submit herewith a Declaration of inventor Robert Keller under 37 C.F.R. 1.131 that the invention of the present invention took place before the effective date of the Huibers, et al. reference, which is only four days prior to the filing of the present application. Accordingly, the reference should no longer be considered.

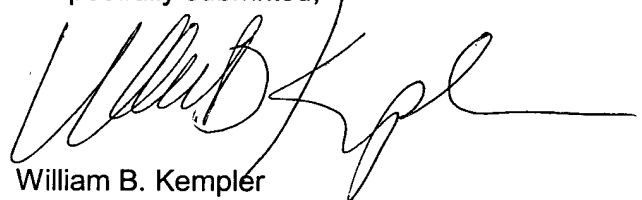
With respect to Hoen, in our previous response, we stated that the path from a given input to a given output is always the same. That is, as clearly shown in Figure 1, a path from one fiber as input to another fiber as output follows a predetermined path deflecting off of two predetermined mirrors. Where another path, from another input fiber to another output fiber is formed within the switching device, another predetermined path utilizing two predetermined mirrors are used. Because all the inputs and all outputs are fixed within the housing (not shown in Figure 1), there is no need to have a feedback device showing that the light beam has impinged upon the selected fiber, because the optimum position for the mirrors has already been chosen. Therefore, no such feedback system is shown or suggested.

With regard to Wingo, applicants traverse the Examiner's position that it can be construed at a path-to-sight device. In Wingo, two optical fibers are notched and cross each at the notch. Thus, there is no ether in their coupling, because they are tightly coupled. The mirror device is used to control light which is applied perpendicular to the plane of the crossing fibers in order to produce a switching action. No data is sent along the light controlled by the mirror device. The data is sent along the optical fibers only.

Accordingly, applicant believe that the claims, as presently constituted, are allowable and such action is respectfully requested.

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Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'William B. Kempler', with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

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